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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/924,250	08/07/2001	Richard E. Rowe	IGT1P063/P-575	2786
22434	7590	07/30/2003		
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS LLP P.O. BOX 778 BERKELEY, CA 94704-0778			EXAMINER MOSSER, ROBERT E	
			ART UNIT 3714	PAPER NUMBER
			DATE MAILED: 07/30/2003	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

N.K.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/924,250	ROWE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Robert Mosser	3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 07 August 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>2-4</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed Febuaraty 14th 2002 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because references B1 and B2 do not include a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, of each patent listed that is not in the English language. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the variations of the promotional card as claimed including structural configurations and validations methods thereof must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claim 26 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Specifically the reference in claim 26 to the game machine being a "stand-alone" device given the claims dependency on claim 24, which defines a distributed application among a plurality of gaming devices presents conflicting definitions as a "stand-alone" device by definition cannot not be reliant on other systems to perform a given task or function and thus the prior structure as so claimed in claim 24 leaves the structure as so claimed in claim 26 incapable of being realized as so claimed.

Claim Objections

5. Claims 3 objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Specifically the reference to "at least one specific gaming application" as found in claim 1 is not further limited by "comprising one specific gaming application" as found in claim 3.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

6. Claims 1-4, 5-7, 9, 11-15, 19-24, 27, 30-32, 34, and 36-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Saunders (US Pat 6,547,664).

7. Regarding claims 1, 3, 6, 19, and 23, Saunders teaches a promotional device having a indicia of credit associated therewith for effecting operation of at least one specific gaming application on a gaming machine which is in communication with the promotional device, the promotional device identifying the at least one specific gaming application and limiting the use of credit thereto. The promotional device is used in conjunction with a gaming machine comprising circuitry for receiving encoded information from the promotional device, and a processor configured to determine whether the application is associated with the gaming machine and in the case of establishing association further enabling operation of the at least one gaming application in accordance with the credit (See Figure 1 & Col 7:34-8:16). Wherein the determination and enablement based on said determination of the at least one gaming application is provided for by those gaming machines equipped with the system as described or alternatively those gaming applications present on the machines attached to the network.

8. Regarding claims 2 and 4, and in addition to the above stated, the promotional device further includes visual elements representing the gaming applications (See Figure 3; TickeTrak).

9. Regarding claims 5 and 7, and in addition to the above stated, the promotional device may comprise a printed ticket wherein the indicia of credit may comprise a barcode or in the alternative a card wherein the indicia of credit is encoded onto a magnetic stripe (See Col 1:50-61 & Col 7:43-53).

10. Regarding claim 9 and in addition to the above stated, the use of a magnetic strip (as cited above) is by definition the use of a magnetic memory (or equivalent magnetic strip) and hence a memory as so claimed.

11. Regarding claims 11-13, 20, 21 and 27, and in addition to the above stated, Saunders teaches the permanent storage of the information encoded on the ticket (including cash-in value, player name and/or player ID number) within a central computer (See Figure 1 and Col 7:41-61), which reads on a gaming machine is part of a gaming network which includes a remote storage device, at least part of the indicia of credit being stored in the remote storage device and the promotional device identifies the user as part of the indicia of credit stored on a remote device..

12. Regarding claims 14 and 30- 32, and in addition to the above stated Saunders teaches the use of a PIN for identification of a player authorized to redeem credit (See Col 7:62-8:15)

13. Regarding claim 15 and in addition to the above stated Saunders teaches the insertion of the promotional device into a slot/receptacle (430) of the gaming machine to facilitate communication (See Col 7:62-65 & Col 5:44-6:2).

14. Regarding Claim 22 and in addition to the above stated Saunders teaches the use of a barcode reader (560) and a magnetic card reader (670).

15. Regarding claim 24 and 34, and in addition to the above stated Saunders teaches the use of a gaming machine in a network (See Figure 1) including a game server (40) that enables game play through reading a ticket at the machine and validating the information read through the game server before enabling game play

(See Col 6:61-66). Wherein the object associated with game play and distributed between the gaming application and the server is the credit validation.

16. Regarding claims 36 and 37 and in addition to the above stated Saunders teaches limiting the use of the player ticket to machines equipped with the reader and attached to the central computer and teaches that the system is compatible with a variety of game machines. This results in limiting the use of the ticket to use on the network it was issued on and venues available on said network.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

17. Claims 8 and 10 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saunders (US 6,547,664).

18. Regarding claims 8 and 10 and in addition to the above mentioned. While Saunders is silent on the use of a incorporating the application identification information into the barcode, magnetic information or equivalent memory of the promotional device, he does use it for a variety of other information in order to help prevent fraud (Col 8: 11-15). It is well known to use the barcodes, magnetic information and memory to identify the application for which a device containing such is intended. This point is readily appreciable with such basic examples a such as loot tickets, credit cards, and the validation codes used in similar gaming systems. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the information included in the afore mentioned forms on the promotional device in order to provide an additional means of device validation and protect against fraud.

19. Claims 16-18, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saunders (US 6,547,664) in view of Mish et al (US 6,254,006).

20. Regarding claims 16 and 35 and in addition to the above disclosed Saunders teaches a cashless method of gaming including means for transferring data both through barcode and through magnetic strip but is silent on the use of wireless transmission. Mish teaches the use of Wireless communication devices and methods of

forming the afore mentioned. Further Mish teaches the use of the parent technology of his invention or specifically smart cards with gaming machines (See Col 1:30-35). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have used wireless transmission in place of contact transmissions as mentioned above in order to provide a system that would be subject to less mechanical wear and provide fewer avenues for debris to enter the body of the gaming machine.

21. Regarding claims 17-18 and in addition to the above disclosed. The invention of Saunders/Mish further includes visual elements representing the gaming applications (See Figure 3 Saunders; TickeTrak) for indicating the at least one gaming venue in which the promotional device may be employed.

22. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saunders (US 6,547,664) in view of Luciano et al (US 6,500,067).

23. In addition to the above disclosed Saunders teaches the connection of a plurality of gaming machines and cashiers to a central computer (See figure 1) but does not specify the means by which they are networked together. Luciano et al discloses a voucher gaming system LAN interconnected system components including a plurality of terminals, a central server and cashier terminals (See Col 3:65-4:18). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used a LAN type network for the network as describe in the invention of Saunders

et al in order to provide a network that is readily adaptable to the addition and removal of components such as cashier stations.

24. Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saunders (US 6,547,664) in view of Stern (US 6,110,044).
25. In addition to the above disclosed Saunders teaches a cashless gaming system comprising of multiple game machines interconnected for enabling the cashless ticket systems only and is silent on making this process stand-alone. Stern teaches a method for issuing and validating gaming tickets that is implemented in a stand-alone process (Col 3:24-41). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have implemented the system through stand alone devices in order to prevent the network installation expenditures for the smaller casinos.
26. Claims 28, 29, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saunders (US 6,547,664) in view of Walker et al (US 6,227,972).
27. In regards to claims 28 and 29 and in addition to the above disclosed Saunders teaches a cashless method of gaming including the transfer of credit but is silent on altering service associated the specific user on at least one application dependent on their credit. Walker et all teaches the altering of services such as availability, credit, and inclusion/exclusion of a player tracking number (See Figure 5) in a method and apparatus for expiration of prepaid slot machine plays It would have been obvious for

one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have altered the services in accordance with a players credit in order to allow the establishments to custom their promotions to each individual.

28. In regards to claims 33 and in addition to the above disclosed Saunders teaches a cashless method of gaming including a player card but is silent on a player tracking service associated with the card. Walker et all teaches the use of player tracking services in conjunction with a player card (See Figure 5) in a method and apparatus for expiration of prepaid slot machine plays. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have incorporated player tracking with a player card in order to allow the users improved satisfaction.

29. Claim 38 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bergeron (US Pat 4,764,666)..

30. Bergeron teaches an on-line wagering system with programmable game entry cards. The cards contain indicia of credit effecting the operation of at least one specific gaming application on an on-line gaming wherein the promotional device identifies the specific gaming application (32) and limits the use thereto. While Bergeron is silent on this online connection being an Internet site it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to utilize an internet site in the system of Bergeron in order to provide a controlled application that does not require a specialized telecommunications network and is more readily available

Conclusion

31. The following prior art is made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

32. Weiss (US 6,511,377) discloses a cashless gaming system: apparatus and method.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert Mosser whose telephone number is (703)-305-4253. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-4:30 Monday-Thursday.

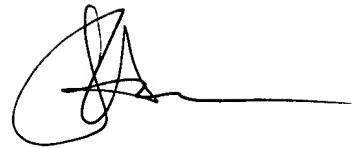
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Hughes can be reached on (703) 308-1806. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9302 for regular communications and 703-872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

REM
July 28, 2003

Application/Control Number: 09/924,250
Art Unit: 3714

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JESSICA HARRISON
PRIMARY EXAMINER